

FORSTMANN-WALTON TEAM CREATING THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN EDUCATION

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, two businessmen, Ted Forstmann and John Walton, are, in my opinion, American heroes, and here is why.

American public schools are in crisis. The crisis is starkly illustrated by the results of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study which found that only Cyprus and South Africa have 12th graders who knew significantly less about math and science than United States students. The major cause of poor United States performance is that our public schools have a near monopoly on education and secondary education, stifling student's academic development. To counter this dilemma, Americans across this Nation are seeking much greater freedom of school choice.

And here is where Forstmann and Walton come in. Last year, through the Washington Scholarship Fund, they awarded over 1,000 scholarships to poor children in Washington, D.C., but they had requests for 7,500. In response to this great demand, the amazing Forstmann/Walton team has pledged \$100 million of their own money and plan to raise an additional \$100 million to provide around 35,000 scholarships to help poor children attend schools of their choice all across this country.

Mr. Forstmann and Mr. Walton are creating the future of American education. When at last our public schools have to compete for students, they will be remembered as two of our greatest, and most generous, education reformers.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I saw the news this morning that 400 and some odd Members of the House yesterday voted for an inquiry into impeachment of the President, including all of those of us who voted for the Democratic amendment to the Hyde resolution. That is simply not true. Many people who voted for the Hyde resolution voted for it, many people who voted for the Democratic amendment voted for it because they wanted an inquiry, but they thought the Republican Hyde resolution was a formula for an open-ended, politicized fishing expedition, and at least this would make it fairer. So they voted for the Democratic amendment, and then, when it failed, they voted against the Hyde resolution.

Some of us, however, thought and think there is no impeachable offense described in the Starr Report. Even if

you assume the President did everything it alleges he did, there is no impeachable offense. He should be punished in some other way for things he did that are not good things to do, but there was no impeachable offense.

We voted for the Democratic amendment as an amendment to make a bad bill, a bad resolution, a better bill, but, had the amendment passed, we still would have voted against the bill because, although it would have mitigated the damages in the bill, it made it much damaging to the country, it was still calling for an unnecessary inquiry. So one has to ask each Member who voted for the Democratic amendment which position he took, but one cannot say they all voted for an inquiry.

I thought the record should be set straight.

SENIOR CITIZENS IN CARSON CITY LOSE A DEAR FRIEND, BRUCE COTTAM

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, the State of Nevada and the Senior Citizens Center in Carson City lost a dear and loyal friend yesterday.

Before his death yesterday, Bruce Cottam served over 4,000 volunteer hours, doing everything from building maintenance to modification projects. As a 6-year member of the Advisory Counsel for the Senior Center, Bruce served on the Finance Committee and was Chairman of the Building Committee. Most recently, he played an instrumental role in developing the plans and construction model for an expansion project of the Senior Center which will be constructed this spring. His dedication to seniors of this community can serve as an example to each of us here in Congress.

Bruce worked diligently, knowing that his volunteer hours would help save the Senior Center from facing enormous cost with a limited budget. He did all this hard work day in and day out, without ever recounting his own efforts. Each and every day Bruce would show up with a smile and friendly greeting, searching for the next project to be done.

Although Bruce lost his life yesterday, his legacy in the State of Nevada will live on, as will his commitment to the seniors and staff of the Carson City Senior Center.

THE PRESIDENT IS MISLEADING US

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, do you remember the quote? The President said,

I am not against tax cuts, but I am against using the surplus for tax cuts or spending programs until we save Social Security.

That is the President's quote.

Well, the President cannot have it both ways. How do my colleagues think he plans to pay for the \$25 billion in new spending that he is demanding from us? He is holding this Congress hostage for \$25 billion of our hard-earned dollars. Right out of the surplus and Social Security, of course. This is the same surplus he claims he wants to protect and save for Social Security.

Do not be fooled, America. The President is misleading us. He is spending the surplus. He is not saving every penny for Social Security. He is using it to grow the government instead of growing our family's bank account where the surplus ought to be.

PATIENTS BEFORE PROFITS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, for 10 months the American public has been very clear in asking for one particular piece of legislation from this Congress, managed care reform. It has been very clear in defining what it wants from a Patients Bill of Rights, it is just common sense: the ability to choose your own doctor, guaranteed access to emergency rooms, guaranteed access to specialty care, a ban on all gag rules that limit doctors from offering treatment options and the right to hold HMOs accountable for their decisions.

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Yet during this Congress the Republican leadership stalled, dallied, and in the end, passed a sham bill that did not do any of the things that the public wanted.

We have 4 days left in this session to pass meaningful managed care reform. The cost of delay is serious. In the past week, 200,000 Medicare recipients have been dropped by their HMOs. This is wrong. It must be addressed before more people are put in jeopardy.

Madam Speaker, we need to put patients before profits. The doctor's office must be a place for medical decisions, not business decisions. We owe it to the American people to pass meaningful HMO reform and do it now.

MANAGED HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, the focus of this House has been almost entirely on what the President did wrong and next to none on how Americans across this country have themselves been wronged in a variety of ways.

One of those that I hear the most from Texas concerns the whole problem of health care and access to health care, the fact that too many people find themselves subject to health care